

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTS
DOWN, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
SHOULDN'T GET PAID

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, if the Government closes, so should its pocketbook. Today, I am introducing legislation to cut off the paychecks of Members of Congress if the Federal Government shuts down because of budget gridlock. Senator BOXER of California is introducing identical legislation in the Senate.

Under Federal law, the House and the Senate must pass all appropriations bills by October 1. If all the bills are not approved and a stop-gap measure is not enacted, the Federal Government will be unable to make payments or meet its obligations. Such a "train wreck" could result in a shutdown of certain Federal operations.

Too many politicians on Capitol Hill are talking about a "train wreck" as if we're dealing with toy trains. A shutdown of the Federal Government is a serious matter, and Members of Congress should take it seriously.

The bill I am introducing is simple—if we don't finish the job, we don't get paid. The bill has three simple provisions.

First, Members would not receive basic pay for any period in which there is a lapse in appropriations for any Federal agency or department as a result of a failure to enact a regular appropriations bill or continuing resolution.

Second, Members would not receive basic pay for any period in which the Federal Government is unable to make payments or meet obligations because the public debt limit has been reached.

Third, no pay forfeited under this measure could be paid retroactively.

A Government shutdown is not child's play. If a "train wreck" occurs, it will disrupt the lives of millions of Americans.

Even if so-called essential services are continued, many people will be affected by the shutdown of Federal offices. Let me give a few examples.

The small business owner looking for a Federally-assisted loan or technical assistance may be told to put his business plans on hold until the shutdown ends.

The senior citizen trying to apply for Social Security benefits may have to delay her retirement because her application can't be processed.

The farmer looking for advice from the Soil Conservation Service may find the office closed and no one answering the telephones.

These disruptions are not necessary. It's our responsibility to avoid a "train wreck" while Congress and the President debate the broader spending priorities over which we differ. We ought to be able to allow the Government to

continue operating while we negotiate our differences over spending priorities. If not, Congressional salaries should be first on the budget chopping block.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation to make Members feel the pain that will be inflicted on others if the Government shuts down.

HOUSING SCHOLARSHIP
DEDICATION IN FREMONT, CA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to join my constituents in the celebration of the completion of the modernization of the Century Village Apartments, a 100-unit apartment complex in the city of Fremont.

This complex was recently acquired and renovated by the Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition, a nonprofit housing developer, with financing assistance provided by the city of Fremont and its redevelopment agency.

Ten apartments at the Century Village are reserved for participants in the Housing Scholarship Program, which combines affordable housing, job training, child care, and other supportive services, to enable participants to obtain full-time employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency. Through donated units and units required through financing agreements to be reserved for housing scholarships, the program is helping people who are helping themselves during a critical period in their lives.

To date, a total of 70 housing scholarships have been provided to families who are in job training. Over 90 percent of the housing scholarship recipients have successfully completed job training. Housing Scholarship Program graduates are developing new leadership skills and becoming valuable assets to the program and the community. Graduates have testified before the city council about the need for additional housing units. Graduates also serve as mentors for new job training participants.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I come before you today celebrating with my constituents the success of the Housing Scholarship Program and the completion of the Century Village Apartments. I hope all my colleagues will join in congratulating the city of Fremont and the Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition for their contribution to their community.

TRIBUTE TO QUENTIN ALEXANDER

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the outstanding work the Boy Scouts of America [BSA] does in training future generations of leaders for our country, and I can testify personally to the benefits of Scouting in my own life. That's why it is a particular pleasure for me to recognize my friend Quentin Alexander today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Quentin has been in professional Scouting for the past 38 years, during the last 21 of which he has served as the Scout executive in the Mount Diablo-Silverado Council of the BSA in my home region in the East Bay of San Francisco. Under his stellar leadership, the Mount Diablo-Silverado Council now serves as the facilitating organization for 18,000 Scouts every year. The Council Endowment Fund has been substantially enlarged under Quentin's careful stewardship, and the new Scout Service Center will offer quality Scouting services for decades to come.

Quentin and his gracious wife Nancy plan to remain in our mutual hometown of Danville after Quentin leaves the Mount Diablo-Silverado Council and look forward to staying active in church and community affairs. While Scouting will miss Quentin's active participation, I look forward to benefiting from Quentin's sage counsel and deep concern for America's youth for years to come. It is an honor for me to applaud Quentin's splendid service to our Nation's young people, and to extend my best wishes to him, Nancy, and their loved ones for all the days ahead.

MEDICARE CUTS

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, over the August recess, I went around my city of Denver—from hospitals to neighborhoods—to talk about the proposed Republican Medicare cuts and know it will affect people's lives and health.

In Denver, we have many teaching hospitals—some of the best health care facilities in the country. They are also a good health care deal for the American public.

In teaching hospitals, doctors get their training, hospitals get qualified personnel, and the public gets access to some of the best health care possible.

Now teaching hospitals are going to take Republican Medicare cuts on the chin. Cuts in

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Medicare will force teaching hospitals to reduce the number of medical trainees they can employ—medical residents who regularly work 80 hours a week, doctors trained with the most up-to-date technology and curricula.

In my district, St. Joseph Hospital employs 100 residents. Cuts in Medicare will reduce the reimbursement St. Joseph's gets to employ medical residents, an annual loss of \$1.4 million that the hospital will have to make up from somewhere else in the budget.

Under the Republican Medicare cut scenario everyone loses: the doctors, the hospitals, and most of all, the public.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL POLISH ALLIANCE GROUP NO. 1837

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the 80th anniversary of the Polish National Alliance Group No. 1837. Formed on August 22, 1915, the group had 13 original charter members. The first was President Theodore Babicki and Vice President Thomas Kien.

Originally, the group was all male. However, on September 1, 1942, 35 women joined the PNA and has flourished to its current membership of 70.

The Polish National Alliance assists religious, charitable, and military organizations, and the shut-in and ailing. The local PNA has contributed to many worthwhile organizations: Morris Hospital, the Paderewski Foundation in Pennsylvania, the National Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC, local Special Olympics.

Clearly, the dedication and sincere efforts by the local PNA has benefited Grundy County and other worthwhile projects. The cause and hard work by the PNA is appreciated by all who have been touched by their kindness.

Congratulations PNA and best wishes for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S.S. "SANTA BARBARA"

HON. ANDREA H. SEASTRAND

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to pay tribute to a U.S. Navy vessel that is celebrating its 25th year of distinguished service. Like the beautiful city in the district I represent, the AE28-class ship proudly bares the name of the third century martyr Santa Barbara—the protector against lightning, thunder, and flame. Since being commissioned in 1970 the U.S.S. *Santa Barbara* has earned a reputation as the Atlantic Fleet's finest, fast-attack AE. The distinctions and honors bestowed upon her include three Battle Efficiency "E" Awards won in 1979, 1989, and 1993. Other honors she has received include

the Golden Anchor Award, the Maritime Warfare Excellence Award, the Engineering/Survivability Award, the Logistics Management Excellence Award, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation for her performance during her 1992–93 Mediterranean deployment.

During its commissioning ceremony, then Santa Barbara Mayor Gerald Firestone offered the U.S.S. *Santa Barbara* a safe port and hearty welcome if the ship would ever visit the west coast. On behalf of the people of the 22d Congressional District, I would like to say that 25 years later that the welcome would be heartier than ever and the port safe as always.

COMMENDING NATO FOR RETALIATION AGAINST BOSNIAN SERB AGGRESSION

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend NATO for finally exhibiting resolve by retaliating against Bosnian Serb aggression. I cannot help but wonder if such actions against the Serbs early in the conflict would not have significantly altered the current dismal situation. The lives of peacekeepers could have been saved, civilian suffering could have been lessened, United Nations credibility could have been salvaged. Three and a half years is far too long a period of time for such atrocities to go unpunished. Unfortunately, 37 more lives needed to be sacrificed before appropriate steps were taken against the Bosnian Serbs. But, we must not dwell on the past, instead we must look forward to the future and hope that the United Nations and NATO continue not to allow Serb attacks on noncombatants in designated safe areas to go unchecked. I must urge the administration to continue in the direction that it has taken, and again reiterate the need to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina. Diplomatic success depends on the credible use of force.

TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO H.R. 1213

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing an updated version of H.R. 1213, with a prospective effective date.

The bill relates to real property sales of S corporations. It is my understanding that if the legislation has a prospective effective date, Treasury will have no objection to the proposal.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING DAVID LEE ELLIOT

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Mr. David Lee Elliot of Zanesville, Ohio sacrificed his life on Sunday, July 23, 1995; and,

Whereas, Mr. David Lee Elliot attempted to make his neighborhood a better place to live by protecting his property; and,

Whereas, Mr. David Lee Elliot was an outstanding and law abiding citizen of Zanesville, Ohio; and,

Whereas, Zanesville, Ohio is a better place to live because of the courageous action that Mr. David Lee Elliot undertook; and,

Whereas, the residents of Zanesville and the surrounding areas of Ohio will greatly miss such an exceptional person.

LONG ISLAND FIREFIGHTERS DESERVE OUR GRATITUDE

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Long Island's brave men and women volunteer firefighters for risking their lives to battle and extinguish two raging brush fires in Rocky Point and Westhampton, NY during the week of August 21. We owe a special debt to these courageous firefighters for their outstanding efforts in safeguarding the lives and properties of these East End communities.

Volunteer firefighters from many communities answered the call to duty. For the most part, they came from Suffolk and Nassau Counties on Long Island to battle enormous windswept brush fires that affected approximately 3,000 woodland acres in Rocky Point and 6,000 acres in Westhampton. What is truly amazing is the fires, although devastating to eastern Long Island's precious pine barrens, were contained and controlled without loss of life.

After fighting a swift-moving brush fire in Rocky Point, Long Island's firefighters, with little rest, once again became the first line of defense and confronted the searing blaze raging in Westhampton. They demonstrated that they can always be counted on to respond quickly in emergency situations, even if it means putting their lives in jeopardy.

Long Island's volunteers risked their lives under extreme conditions and carried out their firefighting duties with honor and distinction. While the fires did not directly touch my western Suffolk County congressional district—New York's 2d District—volunteers from every fire department in my district responded to the need. They are true professionals who never waver in answering the call to protect Long Island's communities from harm. Their dedication to duty is an outstanding reflection of the communities they serve.

While Long Island's brave volunteer firefighters can never be repaid for their devotion

to duty, we can and should acknowledge their commitment by our continued support of their firefighting efforts. They performed well above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Long Island's firefighters and especially proud of those from New York's 2d Congressional District. I hope my colleagues will join me in applauding each and every one of them for carrying out their work with unflinching resolve. Their sacrifices have earned them our deepest gratitude.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DONALD
CRESSMAN—U.S. VETERAN

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on September 4, 1995, in gatherings throughout our Nation, Americans paused to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Sadly, September 4, 1995, also marked the passing of a veteran of that war—an American patriot who loved his family, his country, and his community. It is that man, a good friend, Donald Cressman, for whom I rise today to pay tribute.

Last year I had the privilege of honoring Don for 50 years of membership in the American Legion—he had joined in 1944. Don's story, like that of so many of our fellow veterans, is the story of America's greatness. One of nine children, Don was raised by his grandfather on a farm at the foot of the Pennsylvania Poconos. From his grandfather he learned lessons of discipline and perseverance that would help him overcome great hardships throughout his life. Most important, he learned to walk despite having contracted polio at 5 years of age. In fact, he walked well enough to pass his entrance physical into the U.S. Army and into combat duty. Following the war, he had to learn how to walk again because of a war injury which had put him in a body cast.

Don also learned to work hard, whether it was as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, which he joined at 17, or working on the hot beds of Bethlehem Steel, or going to night school on the GI bill following his tour of duty, or working as a realtor throughout his retirement years.

He had also learned to give. Each thinking person comes to a point in life when they realize they owe a debt of gratitude to a nation that's provided them with the freedom and opportunity to succeed. But, since those freedoms were secured by our veterans, haven't they already done more than their share? So often, however, it is our veterans who continue to give generously of their lives to build and strengthen their community. Don was such a man.

He was a founding member of the Dunedin American Legion in 1958 and served many years as a service officer. He was also an active member of the Dunedin VFW and the DAV. He was a charter member of the Dunedin Elks; served as the first president of the Knights of Columbus; was a past president of the Dunedin Board of Realtors and of the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce. Even in his

church, Don was a pioneer and active member.

So, today we salute a man who spent his lifetime overcoming the odds; of working hard and contributing to the betterment of his fellow man. To Betty, his beloved wife of over 49 years, and to his son, John, of whom he was immensely proud, Don leaves a rich legacy and a name associated with honor.

We will miss you, Don.

SIMON KONOVER RECEIVES THE
NEW LIFE AWARD

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of a remarkable man, my constituent, Simon Konover. He will be honored on September 8 with a ceremony at the Holocaust Museum and the presentation of the New Life Award.

Simon Konover is a survivor of the labor camps of World War II and the battle of Stalingrad. Yet after enduring the worst that humanity can do, he came to the United States and created a new life—one dedicated to the best that humanity can do. His service to Connecticut's Jewish community and to the city of Hartford are all but legendary. Simon Konover has served as chairman of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, the Greater Hartford Israel Bond Campaign, and the Connecticut Society for Yad Vashem. He is an Honorary Life Member of the Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center and the Hebrew Home and Hospital, and also serves on the boards of Mount Sinai Hospital, Hartford Hospital, and the Institute for Living. There is probably not a civic organization in Hartford or in the State of Connecticut that has not been assisted by Simon Konover.

It is particularly fitting that Simon will receive this award at the Holocaust Museum, since he has worked tirelessly for its creation. In doing so, he has given us a precious gift—the gift of memory. In this 50th anniversary year of the liberation of Europe, I am proud to join with Simon's wife, Doris, his children, Jane, Michael, and Steven, and his hundreds of friends and admirers to pledge that we will never forget.

SOCIAL SERVICES NEED
GOVERNMENT HELP

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, some of our colleagues are promoting the privatization of social programs as a way to reduce the deficit. They contend that nonprofit organizations like churches have the millions of dollars necessary to provide education, housing, and health care services, to name a few. I would like to share with those members a commentary that thoroughly discusses the infeasibility of their proposition. Entitled "Social Serv-

ices Need Government Help", the article was written by Mr. Pierre Blaine, a St. Louis television producer, and appeared in the August 25, 1995 edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

SOCIAL SERVICES NEED GOVERNMENT HELP

(By Pierre Blaine)

As the legislation stemming from the GOP's Contract With America cuts the federal government's ability to provide social services, let us remember that the strength of the U.S. economy is in its mixed-economy features—a private market system with social welfare components. Traditionally, government has been a major partner with nonprofit organizations in delivering social services to Americans. The private sector cannot pick up the slack of government retrenchment in many social areas.

The government developed partnerships with nonprofit organizations to help it carry out welfare-state functions and deliver social welfare services. In fact, the government has been the major source of nonprofit-independent sector funding. The evolution of voluntary associations has enabled the federal government to use nonprofit organizations to decentralize the carrying out of public functions for the common good. The government has already begun giving subsidies directly to nonprofit organizations to provide services.

All the talk about vouchers to be given directly to consumers for them to purchase goods and services directly is a result of budget-deficit planning. The budget deficit has already cut the funding available to nonprofit organizations. Reduced support from the federal government has already pushed nonprofit organizations into the commercial market for income.

The movement toward privatizing some government services began during the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George Bush. This philosophy advocated the use of vouchers to compel users to seek alternative private-sector markets to traditional government help. But even Reagan's commission, the President's Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives, concluded in 1981 that it would be impossible for the private sector to pick up the slack in government retrenchment.

Furthermore, in 1992, corporations contributed only 6 percent of the total amount of charitable giving in the United States. The increases in the demand for social services continue to be out of proportion to the money available to nonprofit organizations. Nonprofit organizations are unlikely to be able to compensate for the current reductions in federal funds.

Over the past 18 years, the largest percentage of cuts in the federal budget has been in the discretionary grants to states and local governments, but the increase in the demand for social services still compels the nonprofit sector to respond. Likewise, the projected cuts in revenue for nonprofit organizations is disproportionate to the amount of the federal budget it consumes. Ironically, this retrenchment of federal dollars comes when the private sector is downsizing through layoffs, mergers, reorganizations and transfer of work to other countries. If the United States has a recession because of high interest rates, it will cause further demands for services by nonprofit organizations.

Nonprofit organizations have been increasing fees, donations, user fees and fund-raising. But those alternatives don't replace federal dollars; they have traditionally been effective only in supplementing a declining base from the federal government. The private sector has become more involved, but it

is naive to think that the corporate sector is going to continue to increase giving at levels needed to fill the gap caused by government retrenchment.

Corporate social responsibility depends on the health of the economy as a whole. The business of business is business, and the continued evolution of corporate involvement is tied to the ability to make a profit over long periods. The lack of resources to respond to increased demand leads to doubt about whether private organizations can continue to provide adequate services. Private giving is projected to have to increase by 95 percent between now and 2002 to fill the gap of federal partnership with nonprofit organizations. Voluntary associations are a unique phenomenon in American culture that have had a long affiliation with government in providing social services.

Nonprofit organizations provide services including health care, food pantries, social welfare, housing, economic development and education. The services they provide are not a statistical aberration; they represent help to real faces. Can we afford a contract with America without them?

GUARDCARE: A TRAINING PROGRAM ON TARGET

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, one of the smartest uses of Federal resources is the Colorado National Guard's free clinic for Denver's medically underserved. The clinic, a National Guard GuardCare program, was set up in the baseball stadium and served 640 people in the first 4 days.

GuardCare is a civil-military program designed to provide military training while benefiting the local community. In Denver, 1,633 people who otherwise would not have access to medical treatment benefited. Across the State it will serve 5,000 people in need of care. The program involved the whole community. With the help of U.S. West, it incorporated high tech telemedicine techniques that enabled the National Guard field hospital to talk to Denver General Hospital via television monitor. Denver General provided needed medical information.

The National Guard provided the personnel, the tents, and the medical equipment. For the National Guard it was an ideal training opportunity in field medicine that allowed them to treat the needy in their own community rather than the needy in a foreign country. It is a win-win situation for all.

Unfortunately, this will be the last year for the National Guard's clinic in downtown Denver, and in cities in the other 15 States that have implemented GuardCare programs. Because the National Security Committee, in their zeal to fund unneeded weapons systems, zeroed out the budget for these useful and economically efficient National Guard training opportunities in the authorization bill. The goal of GuardCare was to accomplish mission-essential readiness while rebuilding America. Which part of this goal does the committee find so unworthy of funding? I'll bet it is not the readiness part.

HEALTH INSURANCE HORROR STORY FROM TEXAS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, over the years, I've entered a number of letters from fellow citizens detailing the outrageous failures of our current health insurance system.

I'd like to share with you a letter from the Carawan's of Aransas Pass, TX, which details the crushing increase in health insurance premiums for a family which has had health problems but which has incurred little health expense in the last few years. Clearly, their insurance company wants to force them into giving up their policy—but with no protection against pre-existing condition exclusions, the Carawan's have no where to turn.

Their family policy started 8 years ago at \$3,096 a year with a deductible of \$2,000. It is now \$3,645.90 a quarter with a \$3,000 deductible.

Mr. Speaker, I regret we did not pass H.R. 3600 last year. It would have required the kind of open enrollment, no-pre-existing condition, community-rated policies which would save the Carawan's and millions of other Americans from being priced-out of the insurance market. Following is their moving letter on why we so desperately need health insurance reform:

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: Today we received notice that our health insurance was going to be increased by 30% on July 1, 1995. In January, 1994, our quarterly premiums for my husband and I for a \$3,000.00 deductible were \$1,770.00. The quarterly premium on July 1, 1995 for the same coverage will be \$3,645.90 or \$14,583.60 a year. Eight years ago when we purchased this plan for our family the premiums were \$258.00 quarterly or \$3,096.00 a year. (Note the deductible at that time was \$2,000 and has been increased not by our choice to \$3,000.00). I have spoken to my insurance carrier and they claim the large increase is due to the high loss ratio in the group we are in. Since January, 1994, my husband and I have paid in a total of \$12,641.00 in premium and had a total of \$584.10 in claims.

The stress from this impossible increase will surely increase our chances of recurring illness. My husband and I both have had cancer and we know what a financial strain a serious illness can cause with health insurance coverage and we can't imagine how we could handle such a situation without any protection. We also realize that we cannot qualify for another plan even though it has been over six years since either of us have been hospitalized. Do we pay the increased premiums until we deplete all our financial resources or do we save the premiums and try to self-insure knowing we could not possibly save enough for a possible needed heart or liver transplant. There is not a simple answer.

My husband who is age 55 and I, age 54, are both self-employed. I am an insurance agent and my husband is a commercial shrimper. My husband is a veteran of the Vietnam war with 8 years service to our country. We have always worked, paid our taxes, and tried to be responsible Americans. We have always tried to protect our family with insurance coverage and have never asked for a free handout from our government. It is not fair at this time in our life to be faced with such a dilemma from no fault of our own.

As a representative of our country, I plead with you to take note of the health care problem and act on what is happening. We cannot keep on much longer the way things are now. If something is not done soon, only the rich and the poor (those on disability or very low income supplemented by our government) will be able to receive medical care. What will happen to the middle class worker that has no company benefits?

Respectfully,

FRANCES R. CARAWAN,
Aransas Pass, TX.

EXPERIENCES AND IMPRESSIONS OF ISRAEL

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to join other Members of the House of Representatives on a tour of Israel during the August recess. Attached is an account of my experiences and impressions of Israel while visiting the country.

[From the Jewish World, Sept. 1-7, 1995]

CAN ISRAEL ACHIEVE STABLE PEACE AMONG ENEMIES?—FACT-FINDING TRIP UNCOVERS SOME ANSWERS

(By Michael P. Forbes)

News of the suicide bombing on a Jerusalem city bus came over the radio early Monday morning. Fifteen members of the United States Congress, including myself, and our guests, were traveling at the time from Kibbutz Nof Ginossar on the Sea of Galilee to the Golan Heights up north. My heart broke as I heard the updates: four people dead, 106 wounded; the culprit thought to be a woman suicide-bomber who carried a pipe bomb in her bag. American Joan Davenney, 47, of Connecticut, in Israel to visit her parents and take up Jewish studies at Hebrew University, was among the innocent killed.

Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist terrorist group, claimed responsibility on Damascus Radio and promised similar attacks through the November 1996 Israeli elections. Their goal is to force Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin out of office because, they say, he has declared war against Islam. A growing number of Israelis blame Rabin and his peace endeavors for inspiring frequent attacks and Hamas apparently sees opportunity in the deepening fissures of Rabin's popularity resulting from each of the atrocities. All the while, some suggest the region is on the threshold of a lasting peace; that those enemies whose every breath was once dedicated to the destruction of the state of Israel are now her "partners in peace." But I ask myself, why then is this happening?

In a hardworking, seven-day visit to Israel characterized by back-to-back meetings that ran from the early morning through working lunches to well past midnight, we, members of Congress and our guests, came to understand the difficulties Israel faces in this war-prone region and to learn firsthand more about her history and gain unique insights into the dynamics of her politics, economy and daily life.

It serves this nation's interest to continue to support \$3 billion in aid to Israel for security and economic development. Six hundred thousand immigrants, largely Russian Jews, have arrived in Israel since 1990. The United

States has provided \$80 million for refugee settlement and \$10 million in loan guarantees for housing. Five million dollars for a joint U.S.-Israel scientific technology commission will further both nations' research endeavors. Finally, efforts to provide a lasting peace in the Middle East have been bolstered by forgiving \$275 million in debt owed by Jordan and \$100 million as the U.S. share of multilateral economic assistance for the Palestinians.

I'm proud of this nation's support for Israel. Remembering the tragedy that occurred in Oklahoma City is convincing evidence that, while the Cold War period in which we knew our enemies is over, the world faces a far greater threat from illogical, fanatical terrorist groups. Many have their origins in the Middle East and the world has no better expert in dealing with terrorism than Israel. Our nation's investment there is a good one.

For me, this was a return visit to America's greatest ally in one of the world's most troubled regions and an opportunity to see what changes had taken place in the nine years since I was last there. My ties to Zionism were nurtured in a visit to Israel in 1986 after uncovering a long forgotten family fact that my great-grandfather, Rabbi Max Moses, had emigrated to the United States in the last 19th century from Esslingen, Germany and is today buried in a New Orleans Jewish cemetery.

On August 15, in a trip paid for with private funds, a delegation that included me, my friend from Long Island Congressman Dan Frisa; fellow New Yorkers Congressman Bill Paxton and his wife, Congresswoman Susan Molinari; House Republican Whip, Congressman Tom DeLay of Texas, and 10 other congressional colleagues and guests departed for an exciting, information-packed week of taking in and land and its people. Starting at Mt. Scopus with a tour of the 3,000-year-old capital city of Jerusalem and a meeting with Mayor Ehud Olmert, to the administered territories of Judea and Samaria and a visit there to the settlement of Ma'aleh Adunim with its 200 families, our sightseeing took us from the lowest point on earth (1,298 feet below sea level) at the Dead Sea to the heights of Masada and Golan.

We explored below-ground excavations of the two and a half miles of walls that encircle the Old City of Jerusalem and, on the eve of the Sabbath stopped to pray at the Western Wall, site on an annual pilgrimage by Jews to mourn the destruction of Herod's Temple Mount and their 2,000 years of exile. At the Israel Museum, we took in the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit and later stopped by the highly-touted Israel Arts and Science Academy, where innovation programs for gifted and talented high school students are in their fifth year. Our travels took us to the holy sites of Bethlehem and Nazareth; to one of the earliest synagogues, dating from the fourth century at Capernaum and to the Church of the Beatitudes, both at the nearby Sea of Galilee.

We made a detour to the port of Haifa and out into the Mediterranean to visit American Navy personnel on the *USS Roosevelt*. Home ported at Norfolk, Virginia, this magnificent aircraft carrier was commissioned in 1986, saw duty in Operation Desert Storm and today continues to be a stabilizing force for peace in the Middle East. The nuclear-powered ship is home to some 80 aircraft and, for this Long Islander, it was with tremendous pride that I spotted Grumman-built planes: the E-2C Hawkeyes (an early warning all-weather defensive plane with a rotating

dome) and the supersonic F-14 Tomcat fighter. It was wonderful to meet some New Yorkers while on the carrier and to experience this tremendous asset to the greatest Navy in the world.

In several dozen high level meetings with policymakers, we took the opportunity to get behind-the-scenes insights into a myriad of issues that impact on Israel's security, her future, peace negotiations with the Palestinians, the Syrians and the status of her dealings with surrounding countries. As an ardent supporter of Israel and a member of the House Appropriations' Foreign Operations subcommittee, I very much wanted assurances that Middle East policy decisions made by the United States were not only beneficial to my own country but also to the best interests of our ally Israel. Over dinners with such luminaries as Prime Minister Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk, we were assured Israel and her once-threatening neighbors were moving like never before toward an unprecedented peace.

Where Israel was once isolated, treated like a pariah by its neighbors, today it has treaties with Egypt, Jordan and, if Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat have their way, before too long will have a treaty in place with the Palestinians. Ambassador Indyk is hopeful that the second phase of the Oslo Accords will be signed in Washington soon. In making his pitch for Congress to keep from undermining the peace negotiations maintaining the U.S. commitments to Israel (something about which this group didn't need convincing) Indyk noted Israel is more than willing to bear the added costs of putting an end to territorial hostilities.

He cited as an example, an "Oslo II" provision that involves redeployment of Israeli military forces out of Judea and Samaria at a cost of \$300 million. While telling us of his past advocacy of Jerusalem as the site of the U.S. Embassy, a move I've been pushing in Washington, Indyk now chastises the Congress on the question saying it has "no business" pre-empting negotiations with the Palestinians. If other hopes are realized, a once impossible agreement with Syria might even be in the offing. As Indyk put it, "... this is the 'new Israel' ... the state of siege has been lifted."

If it is indeed a new day, as officials of the prime minister's Labor party government repeatedly suggested, then why are so many Israelis unhappy with Rabin and his proposed terms of a peace agreement? This fact-finding trip was one way I would learn more.

In drawing distinctions between himself and Rabin, Binyamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, member of the Knesset and leader of the Likud party, suggested he is for autonomy in the administered territories of Judea and Samaria, not the creation of a Palestinian state, and characterized the Rabin position as advocating a Palestinian state there rather than autonomy. The Likud leader vehemently opposes any agreement with the Palestinians to surrender land that not only possesses an historical legacy intertwined with Zionism but is of strategic military importance. Specifically referring to the PLO (now referred to as the Palestinian Authority), Netanyahu questioned, "... how do we achieve a stable peace among a sea of enemies?"

He said distinctions must be made between a "true peace" and a "false peace," referencing the late 1930s when for "peace in our time," British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain agreed in the Munich Pact to trade land for peace. This left Czechoslovakia vul-

nerable and set the stage for the madman Hitler to march through Europe in the worst conflagration the modern world has ever known. Clearly, a poignant example of what turned out to be a "false peace." Netanyahu wondered whether the Arabs are genuinely interested in a lasting peace and, if so, are there sufficient security conditions to hold a peace?

Syrian President Hafez el-Assad may profess interest in a peace agreement that includes handing over the Golan Heights, but it's fair to question the wisdom of surrendering northern Israel's three highest hills that directly overlook Syria and, according to military commanders in the region, are a critical line of defense to protecting Israel in the event of another war. Prior to Israel's success in 1967's Six-Day War, Syria occupied the area where it erected an impressive base of operations.

We saw several of those Syrian-built bunker installations during our visit to the Golan Heights and from those locations, developed a clear impression of the tremendous vulnerability many Israeli communities must have experienced during the numerous times they were under military attack with no fall back position. Today, we're reminded of the region's significance with word that Syrian peace talks remain in limbo because they refuse to reconsider a demand that Israel totally withdraw from the Golan.

The Samaritan mountains above Jordan offer a similar line of defense that provides security to a peace and most importantly, deters war. We were told by Yossi Beilin, Peres' former deputy at the Foreign Ministry and now minister of Economy and Development, that there have been no terrorist incidents or killings in the secured Golan since taken by Israel in 1967. Ramona Bar Lev, coordinator of the Golan Residents Committee that is opposed to annexation of the area by Syria, reiterated that point. Nonetheless, Netanyahu reminded us that, since 1993, 170 lives have been lost to terrorism, largely emanating from the Arab-dominated hotbed of Gaza, and the toll continues to rise.

In an age of very sophisticated technology, AWACs (airborne warning and control systems), early warning systems, satellite photos and radar, Israel's military commanders were surprisingly candid in telling us there is still no substitute for processing the highest mountaintops and observing the movements of the enemy with one's eyes. Airpower, missiles and selective strikes can cause tremendous damage and distract the enemy, but as we were reminded, the U.S. liberated Kuwait and won the Gulf War with its ground troops and ultimately it is the ground troops that must move in and take an area. In Israel's case, a longstanding point was being sustained that her best defense rests in keeping the strategically important mountains and hills.

As possible terms of an Israel peace accord are floated about and the potential for that nation to shrink from 40-55 miles wide to a narrow enclave of just 9-15 miles wide, conventional thought about the strategic importance of land to Israel's security are challenged. It's tough for outsiders like us to fathom a new way of looking at Israel's defense, even when respected leaders of the Labor government shift their views and now say the best tactical approach is monitoring actions at the Jordan-Saudi border 400 miles away.

Our tour included a visit with Dr. Saeb Erekat, a highly-placed representative of the Palestinian Authority in Jericho and a negotiator in Eilat for Arafat. I found Erekat to

be more defensive than conciliatory when questioned by our delegation. He was asked about speeches attributed to Arafat in which he called for a continued jihad. According to Peace Watch, a newsletter monitoring the peace process, in a January 1995 speech to Palestinian laborers Arafat was quoted as saying, "all of us are willing to be martyrs along the way, until our flag flies over Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine. Let no one think they can scare us with weapons, for we have mightier weapons—the weapons of faith, the weapons of martyrdom, the weapons of jihad."

Erekat dismissed that and a series of similar outrageous statements with a convoluted explanation that jihad actually has two meanings: one refers to "little jihad" as the holy war the PLO leader long advocated that ends in the destruction of Israel; the other refers to "big jihad" as massive economic, social and educational changes he wants to bring to the Palestinian people. It is the latter, said Erekat, to which Arafat referred. When Israel's Labor party officials were queried on the issue, they gave a similar answer.

I attempted to get assurances from him that since they now have Gaza and Jericho and Rabin's support (though no final agreement) in their bid to control Judea and Samaria, would those be enough concessions to get the Palestinians to drop their opposition to a united Jerusalem within the state of Israel? He dismissed my question, saying that any final decision must await the last stage of negotiations set to begin in May 1996.

Congress will consider extending the Middle East Peace Facilities Act (MEPFA) later this month. It permits a waiver of U.S. laws prohibiting aid to terrorists and paid the Palestinians \$100 million upon signing the peace agreement with Israel. Enough doubts surrounded the Palestinians' willingness to comply with the Oslo Accords that Congress granted only short term extension of the act. What I've learned during this trip will weigh heavily as deliberations of NEPFA move onto the House floor.

The problem of water in this largely arid region has profound implications for Israel and several attempts to understand the Rabin government's position yielded few substantive answers. Israel is seriously dependent on its seasonal rainfall and three critical feeders into the national water system: Israel's only fresh body of water, Lake Kinneret at the Golan, the coastal plain aquifer and a mountain aquifer. The coastal plain is subject to salt and pollutants that reduce water quality, shifting an additional burden to the Golan lake and mountain ridges of Judea and Samaria for an adequate supply of water and making it the most important long-term source for the national water system.

The fate of Israel's water supply would be largely left to Arabs in the administered territories if tenets of the peace agreement with the Palestinians are realized. I remain unsatisfied with explanations offered for dealing with the dilemma, most notably that a triumvirate multinational entity might govern future administration of the region's water.

In what can best be described as wonderfully fun moments, we celebrated a Shabbat dinner and spent a beautiful, cool, starry night sailing on the Sea of Galilee in a replica of "The Jesus Boat." Newly-emigrated Russian Jews entertained with their music as we danced the hora to the "Have Nagilah."

I was especially moved also by a breakfast meeting we had with former Soviet dissident

Natan Sharansky, whose struggle against a totalitarian regime put him in prison for nine years. Sharansky's only crime was his practice of his religion and his growing commitment he had to Zionism. He became an icon in the struggle of Jews to leave for Israel—to make *aliyah*—and an international champion of human rights. He was sentenced to 400 days of isolation, in so-called punishment cells, conditions that compelled him to go more than 200 days on hunger strike. It was an honor for me to meet the hero Sharansky who is now enjoying freedom as a resident of Israel.

My most profound and emotional moments came during our visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, a permanent memorial to the millions of Jews who, for the nature of their beliefs, were persecuted, suffered and died at the hands of history's greatest menace. Six million Jews died in all; 1.5 million were children. My friend, Congressman Jon Fox of Philadelphia, and I had the honor of placing a wreath at the Hall of Remembrance. I will carry with me forever the vivid memory of the Children's Memorial, where a soft but firm voice carefully read in Polish, German, English and Hebrew the names, ages and birthplaces of all those children known to be among the 1.5 million killed by the Nazis.

Ours was an extraordinary fact-finding mission. It has left an indelible impression on me to ensure a sustained American resolve that forever stands by Israel, our dearest friend and closest ally in democracy and freedom. From history's triumphs and tragedies, we must learn so that mankind does not repeat the mistakes of the past. And, most importantly, we must never, ever forget.

PROHIBIT THE FDA AND HHS FROM REGULATING THE SALE OR USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

HON. L.F. PAYNE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to prohibit the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or any agent of the Department of Health and Human Services from regulating the sale or use of tobacco products. The bill is in direct response to the proposed rule that the FDA announced last month. Under the Agency's proposal, the FDA would assume broad new powers over tobacco advertising, marketing, and use—powers which Congress has steadfastly refused to grant to the Agency.

I am very pleased to be joined in introducing this bill by Representatives BALLENGER, BAESLER, BOUCHER, COBLE, ROGERS, HEFNER, ROSE, SPRATT, SCOTT, BUNNING, FUNDERBURK, JONES, GORDON, CLEMENT, CLYBURN, TAYLOR of North Carolina, CHAMBLISS, and WARD.

The purpose of this bill is not to thwart legitimate efforts to curb youth smoking. Everyone knows that minors should not smoke cigarettes or dip snuff. Reducing youth smoking is a goal that is almost universally shared. All 50 States have enacted laws to prohibit youth smoking. And the tobacco industry itself has taken voluntary steps to eliminate the sale of tobacco to minors. On several occasions this year, I have actively encouraged the Clinton

administration to work with the industry in expanding voluntary restrictions as an alternative to new and over-reaching regulations.

I have never met a tobacco farmer or warehouse employee who would want their children to smoke cigarettes. They want existing laws enforced, and they want voluntary measures to be given the chance to work.

What they do not want is for the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to use legitimate public concerns about teen smoking as the pretext for asserting its enormous regulatory jurisdiction over tobacco products.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is simple and straightforward. It simply bars the FDA from proceeding with any regulations governing the sale or marketing of tobacco products. Prohibiting the FDA from moving forward with these proposed regulations is not only consistent with existing law, it will send an important message to every other agency that attempts to issue regulations without express authority from the Congress.

This controversy is not new. In the last Congress, and in the Congress before that, legislation was introduced in the House and Senate to expand the FDA by creating a new regulatory category for tobacco products. Those proposals were rejected. In fact, throughout this century, tobacco's opponents have understood that their best chance to ban tobacco is to give unelected officials of the executive branch regulatory authority over this product. Time and again, such attempts have been rejected.

When Congress has enacted legislation dealing with tobacco, its delegation to the executive branch has been narrow and very specific. The FTC, for example, has carefully drawn duties with respect to assuring that the Surgeon General's warning are placed on cigarettes marketed domestically.

Furthermore, in enacting the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act of 1965, Congress declared that the act set up a "comprehensive Federal program to deal with cigarette labeling and advertising (15 U.S.C. 1331)." This language suggests strongly that actions not plainly authorized by the act are beyond the powers of the executive branch. It is difficult to understand how the FDA can proceed with new restrictions on tobacco advertising in light of this language.

Even the FDA has acknowledged its inability to regulate tobacco.

Unable to achieve victory in the halls of Congress, tobacco's opponents are now relying on the administrative powers of the executive branch to assert this new and potentially far-reaching authority over tobacco. Tobacco's opponents may celebrate the administration's action on tobacco right now, but they may rue the day when they allowed the executive branch to establish such a precedent.

Just imagine the outcry of tobacco's most vociferous opponents if another President at another time tries to use executive powers to circumvent the expressed will of Congress on such matters as environmental safety, workplace protection, and gender equity. They would cry foul and they would have every right to.

Beyond this important concern about the FDA's legal jurisdiction to act, it is also clear that the administration's proposal runs contrary to the whole focus of government right

now. Americans want less government, not more. I find it ironic that as many agencies are downsized and eliminated completely, the administration would seek to expand the scope and mission of the Food and Drug Administration in this manner. Tobacco is already one of the most heavily regulated products in the United States. Regulation begins at the plant bed and runs well beyond the point of sale.

Finally, the FDA needs to re-order its priorities and focus on those issues which Congress has charged it with. We have all heard the reports of the FDA being unable to test and approve life saving drugs in a timely manner. It is an agency that should get its own house in order rather than trying to take on new projects in areas where it clearly lacks jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent more than 5,000 tobacco growers. These hard-working farmers and their families don't want children to smoke. All they want is for Washington to treat them fairly.

The FDA's proposed rulemaking is not fair. It contradicts the plain intent of Congress and is a thinly-veiled attempt to regulate and ultimately destroy domestic tobacco products. I urge my colleagues from both parties and from all regions of the country to join me in sponsoring this important bill.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER JANE
FRANCES BRADY, SC

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to serving others. Sister Jane Frances Brady, SC, brings comfort to those she touches through Healing the Children, a remarkable, service-oriented organization committed to the donation of medical resources to those who cannot afford the attention they need.

All over the world millions of families use the little money they have to buy just enough food to survive; they cannot afford normal medical expenses. In the most underdeveloped countries, children who need care go untreated because of a lack of resources or funding to afford the little care that is available. Families suffer unthinkable pain, and children are the victims in this tragedy.

Sister Jane Frances Brady, SC, the president and chief executive officer of St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center is a recipient of numerous awards from professional and civic organizations for her dedication to helping the needy. However, her commitment to Healing the Children proves what the giving of ones self really accomplishes. Healing the Children has sent her to foreign countries where she has served on medical teams helping children who are suffering as a result of a lack of medical resources. As a part of Healing the Children, Sister Jane has also opened the doors of St. Joseph's to sick and needy children from around the world.

Through the work of Sister Jane Frances Brady, SC, and the organization, Healing the

Children, families are given the attention they need to help them stay in good health. This group of caring medical professionals seeks out children in need, recruits the medical personnel and provides loving support. The Healing the Children medical teams share their knowledge with the host country's medical personnel, in hopes that one day these trips will not be necessary. At both home and abroad, Healing the Children also flies children to hospitals where they will receive the best possible treatment for their ailment.

Through the caring leadership of executive director and founder Evelyn Dudziec, this organization has performed these important missions for more than a decade. Mrs. Dudziec works out of a small office in her home in Kinnelon, NJ where she oversees the management of Healing the Children. She is also a member of Concerned Persons for Adoption and the Spina Bifida Parent Support Group. As a volunteer chairperson of the Fresh Air Fund of Northern New Jersey, a member of the Vietnamese Refugee Program and a host to 48 children through Healing the Children since 1981, Evelyn opens her heart to those less fortunate. Together with Sister Jane Frances Brady, SC, they serve as a rare and special reminder of what one person can accomplish in this small world.

MARYVILLE ACADEMY—AN OASIS
OF HOPE FOR ORPHANS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, policymakers have been discussing the merits of orphanages within the concept of foster care and the need to restore the family in our society.

R. Bruce Dold, the Pulitzer Prize winning deputy editorial page editor for the Chicago Tribune, has written an excellent article for Notre Dame magazine, summer 1995 edition on Maryville, a "home of last resort." I am extremely proud of Maryville, which is located in my district, and of Father John Smyth, the academy's director.

Mr. Dold's article deserves a wide audience and I am pleased to commend it to my colleagues:

[From the Notre Dame Magazine, Summer 1995]

A PLACE TO CALL MY OWN

(By R. Bruce Dold)

He was a real wisenheimer, as they called it in those days, a cigar-smoking, card-playing, suspenders-and-fedora kid, and if he didn't straighten out quick, why, "he'd turn out to be a 5-and-10 mug." That's what his older brother said. That's the reason Whitey Marsh had to go to the orphanage.

Oh, it wasn't easy at first. The kid ran away, but the sound of the lunch bell brought him back on the double. And when his brother robbed the bank and Whitey wouldn't spill the beans, it looked dark.

But Whitey was a good egg after all, and when he explained everything, how he was just trying to help his own flesh and blood, they let him go. And he was elected the mayor of Boys Town.

His father took off when he heard Tony Kohl was born. His mother was a drunk who

beat him and burned him, and when he was 5 and his brother was 2, she dumped them both outside a child welfare office in Chicago.

They were adopted, but the new parents grew fearful of Tony as he got older. They said he was violent and emotionally unstable, that he hit his brother and other kids. When he was 10, they dropped him at an orphanage and tried to make sure he'd never see his brother again.

The child welfare officials wouldn't let him stay at the orphanage. They put him in a foster home. But he lured some of the younger kids into sex games, and the foster parents got rid of him. The officials put him in a psychiatric hospital, and after four months they placed him in another foster home. He set that one on fire, earning himself another trip to a hospital.

He went through a dozen foster homes, each time getting in trouble and getting kicked out. So they shipped him to a place in Arizona he describes as "a prison," and he hated it.

Finally, a year ago, he was sent to Maryville Academy, the 112-year-old children's home in Des Plaines, Illinois, run by Father John Smyth '57. After a failed adoption and a dozen foster homes and two psychiatric hospitals and one "prison," he's finally, at age 16, found a place that won't kick him out or lock him up. He's not the mayor of Maryville, but he's doing okay.

When House Speaker Newt Gingrich raised the prospect of removing unwed teenage mothers from welfare and allowing states to use the saved money to open orphanages, he stepped into a quietly raging war among those who make it their business to look after abused and neglected children.

When First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton slammed the Gingrich proposal as "unbelievable and absurd," it appeared to be one more clash of partisan politics. Actually, the public was getting its first glimpse of that war among child-care experts.

Gingrich's suggestion that the naysayers watch the 1938 movie Boys Town to get an idea of what he had in mind was cockeyed. Whitey Marsh, the mug-to-mayor character played by Mickey Rooney, is as much like Tony Kohl as The Great Train Robbery is like Star Wars. But in a sense he probably didn't grasp, Gingrich was on to something.

The United States is currently the de facto parent for nearly half a million abused and neglected children, and the number is growing at a dizzying rate. The nation doesn't know what to do with all these kids, or with scores more who are on the way.

The revival of the orphanage is an unhappy, but utterly unavoidable, choice. The experts just aren't willing to admit it.

They held a roast last year for John Smyth, but nobody could think of anything particularly snide to say about him. The best line came from Chicago Police Superintendent Matt Rodriguez, who claimed that the good father held the Notre Dame record for most fouls in a varsity basketball game.

In a town that routinely chews up and spits out public figures, Smyth, 62, is regarded as an uncommon savior.

He was a 6-foot, 5-inch center and team captain at Notre Dame when the 1956-57 basketball team placed third in the Midwest Regional of the NCAA tournament. He was picked in the first round of the National Basketball Association draft by the Saint Louis Hawks, but after barnstorming for 30 games with a group of college stars picked to play against the Harlem Globetrotters, he gave up basketball to enter Saint Mary of the Lake

Seminary in Chicago and, in 1962, the priesthood.

He knew nothing at all about Maryville when he was assigned there, fresh out of the seminary, but he thought he could hack it for a few years. The place hadn't changed much since 1983, when it opened as Saint Mary's Training School, an outgrowth of a Chicago orphanage started a dozen years earlier to care for children orphaned by the Great Chicago Fire.

In the 1920s, Maryville housed as many as 1,200 children during a flu epidemic, and that many again during the Great Depression of the 1930s. But its fate was tied to changes in the nation's child-welfare policies, and in the early 1970s it nearly closed.

Today there are 276 kids on the campus, a third of them girls. None of the 276 is a Whitey Marsh.

There was a time, more than a century ago, when the orphanage seemed on the cutting edge of child protection. Children who were orphaned in the mid-19th century, usually by health epidemics, either lived on the streets or were placed with adults in poorhouses or jails. Some were shipped west to live with farm families, who often treated them more as indentured servants than as children.

By comparison, the orphanage was a refuge.

But orphanages fell into disfavor in the 1950s and '60s, when studies suggested that very young children who grew up in them suffered from developmental delays and failed to establish personal relationships.

With the advent of antibiotics and the welfare system, far fewer children were orphaned by disease or economic depression. If children had to leave their homes, it was more likely because they had been abused or neglected. The nation moved toward placing those children with foster families, volunteers who provided a temporary, substitute family.

In 1980, Congress passed the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act, which established that the nation's goal was to prevent the removal of abused and neglected children from their homes and, if they were removed, to reunify them with their families as quickly as possible.

The way station of choice for kids who had to leave their homes was now the foster family. The orphanage, officially, was on the outs.

What few people anticipated in 1980 was a new epidemic, one that can't be wiped out by antibiotics: an epidemic of child abuse. In 1982 there were 262,000 children living in substitute care; that number now has soared to 450,000, a high percentage of them the victims of sexual or physical abuse or neglect.

Smyth estimates that 85 to 90 percent of his youngsters come from homes where parents are afflicted by cocaine or alcohol abuse. A decade ago, 85 percent of the children at Maryville could be expected eventually to return to their parents. Now, just 15 percent have an realistic hope of ever going home. Heck, only 15 percent have any hope of a parent so much as showing up at Maryville for a visit.

When kids come to Maryville, they are angry and lost. "We assume that they have not been taught any social skills at all," Smyth says. "Most of them have been through several foster homes. It's just a mismatch there. We're the safety net."

Indeed, by the time kids land at Maryville, they have likely failed a half a dozen foster homes, deepening their sense of distrust and cynicism and shattering their sense of self-

worth. Maryville is usually the last chance to repair them.

Since 1979, Maryville has run an intensive therapy program based on the teacher-parent model pioneered at the modern-day Boys Town in Nebraska. Up to nine children live in a townhouse on 98-acre grounds in Des Plaines with a live-in adult or a married couple. Everything is a socialization experience. The kids make their own meals, shop for their groceries, clean house, wash the dishes and balance the house checkbook.

During the day, the parent notes all of their positive and negative behaviors and assigns points for each behavior. Shaking hands and establishing eye contact with a visitor earns points. Cleaning the dishes earns points. Asking for help, giving compliments, completing homework can all be worth points. Anti-social behaviors such as talking back or picking a fight bring negative points.

At 7 each evening, all the points are tallied on a 5-by-8-inch card. It is, in essence, a daily report card. Each child has to accumulate 10,000 points every day to earn privileges for the next day: snacks, television, Nintendo, the telephone.

Over time, the kids move up to higher levels. On the second level they get a later bedtime, more TV time and a point-card review every other day instead of daily. On the third level, privileges are more loosely negotiated. On the fourth, the kids achieve a considerable measure of independence.

Run away from Maryville and they're busted right down to the bottom.

In 1982 there were about 140,000 foster homes available to take in kids; in the most recent count by the National Foster Parent Association, there were just 100,000. So where are they putting all those kids?

"They're just putting more children in the homes," says Gordon Evans, spokesman for the association. "There's an exodus of families. The kids' problems are much more severe than ever before, and (the foster parents) don't know how to cope."

The foster care system, noble in intent, is a bureaucratic nightmare. Numerous studies have shown that many foster parents aren't adequately trained to handle the most troubled children. Moving children from foster home to foster home forces them to deal with rejection again and again. Health care for those children is so haphazard, as they bounce from home to home, that some states have resorted to issuing health-care "passports" so the latest doctor has some idea of the child's health history.

Some states have reacted to the problem by redoubling efforts to prevent child abuse—or responding to it with counseling and other services to parents and children in their homes. Those efforts are necessary, but the results of prevention efforts have been, at best, mixed.

While the child welfare system imploded, something else happened. Orphanages—the best of them, at least—evolved into highly sophisticated models for turning around the lives of the nation's most troubled kids through intensive, round-the-clock treatment.

Far from the barracks image of the old-style orphanages, the Maryville townhouse would be the envy of any college kid crammed into a dorm room. Each house has a roomy kitchen, a living room, a dining area and bedrooms—one for every two kids. The living room has comfortable sofas and lounge chairs, a 27-inch TV and a VCR. On the cork bulletin board, the therapy schedule shares space with the gym schedule.

"They provide consistency, motivation and professional care," says Patrick Murphy, the Cook County Public Guardian, whose father was a Maryville resident from 1914 to 1917. "It's the only option for kids who can't handle the intimacy and demands and inconsistency of a foster home."

Critics of institutional care argue that it can harm children by depriving them of a family structure. Says Marion Wright Edelman, director of the Children's Defense Fund, "We went back to foster care because orphanages are not all Boys Towns. Most families are better than most institutions. That does not mean it's not possible to have humane institutions, but we believe in having a few adults and a few children relating to each other. I don't want to say there's never been a good orphanage, but it has to be at the very, very end of the continuum."

Many of the kids at Maryville would agree. Give them a family that wanted them and they'd be gone in a moment. But many of those kids also acknowledge, perhaps reluctantly, that they can't cut it in a family right now. Says Tony Kohl, "I want to go home after school and not think of myself as a Maryville kid. It'd be much different if I had a regular family, but I understand that's not going to happen."

Maryville will never force a child to leave, no matter how difficult he is. But Tony has still had to deal with a different kind of rejection. In the spring, his parent-teacher took a new job somewhere else. The change to a new parent-teacher was hard on him, and his school grades dropped.

No one has the corner on perfection in child welfare. "Any kid who can be in a foster home should be in a foster home. And if every kid can be in a foster home, close Maryville," Smyth declares. "The question you have to ask is, what happens to the kids who are bounced out (of foster homes). If you're going to turn your back on those kids, they'll be on the street."

"When you take a kid who's bombed out from a foster care program, who is destructive, then you better have the wherewithal to hang in there and solve the problem. Now, that is tough duty."

Besides psychological therapy, Maryville provides preparation for teenagers to live on their own. It tries to prepare them not only for independent living but for family life as adults. It has a Career Development Center with programs in carpentry, printing, auto repair and other vocations, each one sponsored by a local company.

While studies show nearly half the children who go through foster care drop out of school, every child who lives at Maryville graduates from high school. If a Maryville kid is accepted to college, Maryville pays the tuition, thanks largely to private donations. On average, one-third of each graduating class goes on to college, and two-thirds of those students earn a degree. Maryville has graduated kids from Notre Dame, Northwestern and other top schools.

All that comes at a hefty price; Maryville spends about \$35,000 a year on each child. The parent-teacher, unlike a foster parent, is a paid professional. At Maryville they earn at least \$34,000 a year, plus room and board. These costs are paid by the government and private donations.

Smyth's operation also recruits and trains foster parents and runs a parenting-teen center in Chicago, a witness protection program, a farm school and an emergency shelter for sexually abused children. Altogether, Maryville facilities assist more than 12,000 children each year.

Yes, Maryville works.

The aversion to orphanages nevertheless rages on. Gingrich's proposal to direct money saved from welfare to orphanages raised such an outcry that all references to orphanages were removed from the House bill.

But Gingrich had twisted the debate. Orphanages shouldn't be repositories for the children of poor parents who are forced off welfare; that's both mean-spirited and prohibitively expensive. But more orphanages are needed right now for children who are victims of serious physical or sexual abuse.

The genesis of the move to revive orphanages is generally traced to Lois Forer, a retired judge in Philadelphia who spent years in family court and saw no end to the foster-care treadmill on which many children were running. Joyce Ladner, the acting president of Howard University and a child welfare expert, echoed Forer's opinion that more orphanages are critically needed.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan sounded the alarm in 1989, writing that the prevalence of crack-cocaine will "soon give us the no-parent child as a social problem." The likely answer, he said, was the re-establishment of orphanages. Much in the way that Moynihan's prescience about the underclass was ignored in the 1960s, his warnings about the state of children have been ignored today.

In 1991, Illinois became the first state to launch a formal investigation into reviving orphanages. But a state-established task force concluded that orphanages are "not consistent" with the goal of rapidly returning abused children to their families. The task force seemed not to notice that in the 18 months it spent preparing its report, Illinois' foster-care rolls had swelled by another 11,000 children.

The opponents of orphanages make several critical errors. They raise fears that orphanages will be used inappropriately in place of foster homes, but they don't recognize that foster care is being destroyed by a system that forces troubled kids into it who don't belong there, don't benefit from it, and whose behavior hounds foster parents into quitting.

The opponents cling to the hope that better foster care and "family preservation" programs can handle the child-welfare crisis. It's true that prevention programs are critical and show real promise, but they are still in their infancy. And they're being swamped by the child-abuse epidemic.

Just as flu and typhoid created scores of orphans in the 1890s, so have crack-cocaine and AIDS in the 1990s. "We're always going to have dysfunctional families. But I'm convinced that sexual abuse and physical abuse is the result of being high on crack-cocaine and alcohol," says Smyth. "They're nuts, they're crazy: When they walk in a room, a 7-year-old girl looks like a 21-year-old girl. Human nature has not changed that much in 10, 12, 15 years."

In the 1990s, child abuse often starts in the womb. At the child intake center run by Maryville, roughly 5 to 10 infants arrive each day suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome or the symptoms of crack-cocaine use by their mothers.

The nation can't handle its drug epidemic, which begat the child welfare epidemic. It can't prevent drugs from being manufactured here or shipped in from somewhere else. It doesn't have enough jail cells to lock up the users. And it does not want to spend the money for treatment.

On top of that, the nation is just beginning to deal with the disaster of a federal welfare

policy that prevents outright destitution but contributes to a permanent underclass, which is most prone to child neglect.

"Everything it has done has destroyed families," says Smith, who works closely with welfare recipients. "These are the conditions of welfare. You cannot own anything. You cannot save anything, you cannot work and you can't get married. I think that's slavery. If you took away welfare, they'd work. And they'd live and they'd succeed. But you have to raise people up so they can compete. You start by making sure the family stays together and the kids stay in school."

Until the nation figures out how to raise up the underclass and end drug abuse—utopian notions, perhaps—it has to figure out what to do with all the kids who can't live safely at home, particularly those whose emotional scars run deepest.

It cannot afford to turn its back on any reasonable solutions. And that includes the 1990s version of the orphanage.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, despite her splendid accomplishments as Social Security Commissioner which are set out in the following USA Today article, Shirley Chater's nomination to become the first head of the non-partisan independent Social Security Administration has been held up in the Senate Finance Committee, thus proving that there is more than one way to abuse a woman.

[From the USA Today, Aug. 30, 1995]

AGENCY PUTS FOCUS ON ITS CUSTOMERS

(By Martha T. Moore)

WASHINGTON.—For knowledgeable, helpful, polite telephone service, a shopper can call that famous mail-order retailer in Maine.

Or, a taxpayer can call Social Security.

After two years of corporate-style reengineering, the Social Security Administration is emerging as the federal agency that's providing the best service to its customers—that is, to taxpayers. It's a favorite of Vice President Gore, the champion of reinventing government, and Michael Hammer, co-author of *Reengineering the Corporation*—the book that spurred the reengineering movement.

And in key measures of customers satisfaction, Social Security has outscored companies famed for service, such as Nordstrom and L.L. Bean. That's an "incredible" achievement, Gore says. "They're really transforming and reengineering their agency."

Reengineering, a term borrowed from the corporate world, means a start-from-scratch overhaul of the way an organization does its work, with goals determined by customers' desires and performance measured by comparisons against the best in the industry. Since 1993, when the Clinton administration kicked off its National Performance Review for government agencies, Social Security has pressed hard to improve customer service, through the agency's toll-free number (800-772-1213) for questions and information, and in its field offices. The changes that have been made are both obvious and subtle. For

one thing, taxpayers are now referred to as customers.

As well they should be, says Stephanie Martin, a telephone representative at the agency's Jamaica (N.Y.) Tele-service Center. "Social Security is a business of insurance," says Martin, who handles 50 to 70 callers a day. "They are paying to be insured."

The results so far: In a survey of telephone customer service in May, Social Security outperformed private companies famous for their customer service, including catalog retailer L.L. Bean and Baldrige Quality Award winners Federal Express and AT&T Universal Card.

"There are some government departments which are effectively resisting this whole (performance review) thing tooth and nail, which are bureaucratic nightmares beyond anything one could imagine," Hammer says. "A few agencies are doing a good job. The Social Security Administration is one of the leaders."

Social Security Commissioner Shirley Chater is hoping for a fringe benefit from reengineering: If people believe Social Security is run efficiently, they may worry less about whether it will go broke before they retire. "Good service equals confidence in the program," she says.

To come up with a revamped process, the agency began the way corporations do: It created a reengineering team. Together with consultants, the team members visited private companies such as AT&T's Universal Card operation to see how they operate. And they did what all market researchers do: they talked to the people who use their services. "The cornerstone is to find out what your customers want," says Toni Lenane, chief policy officer and head of the customer service program. The agency surveyed 10,000 people, conducted focus groups, and mailed 22,000 comment cards to people who had visited Social Security offices.

What the team learned: Customers don't expect the world, but they want to be treated well and quickly. Based on the results, the agency pledged to treat customers politely and promptly. It instituted more courtesy training for employees. It is reassigning as many as 700 staff members from headquarters and support jobs to field offices to deal with customers face-to-face.

The biggest effort focuses on the 800 number, most taxpayers' first contact with the agency. Social Security's goal is for customers to reach a representative within five minutes.

It's a tough task. Because all Social Security checks normally arrive on the third day of the month (unless that falls on a Sunday), everyone who has a problem calls on the same day to complain. That's why the agency hasn't met its five-minute target yet. In the May telephone service survey, Social Security scored first in every aspect of telephone service except time spent on hold: Its callers held for about eight minutes on average. Agency figures for week of August 7-11 show that 69% of callers got through within five minutes. Lenane admits that on the worst days, callers may never get through. So the reengineering isn't over. By January, the agency predicts the success rate will reach 95%. To hit that goal, it is adding staff to answer phones at peak times. In January, when calls typically increase because of December retirees and frequent questions about cost-of-living adjustments and taxes, the agency will boost the number of people answering phones from 4,600 last year, then a record, to 7,900. Most help comes from other agency workers trained to pitch in temporarily.

Upgrading phone systems and adding automated information to answer the most common questions. Already, a menu allows callers to choose English or Spanish language help. That's a boon for Betsy Reyes, a bilingual representative at the Queens (N.Y.) phone center. Before, she was summoned each time an agency worker received a call from a Spanish speaker. Now those calls queue up automatically.

Staggering delivery times of checks for people who retire in coming years. The agency had hoped to stagger checks for people already receiving Social Security as well. But current recipients, whose finances revolve around a check arriving the third of each month, were opposed.

While the reinvention of customer service continues, the agency also is preparing to tackle an even tougher challenge: fixing the process for awarding disability benefits. Now, it's a nightmare that can drag on for nearly two years—even though the actual labor involved in a disability claim, by the agency's own count, totals 45 hours. Even a simple claim for benefits that doesn't get appealed takes 155 days—five months—to be decided. The problem: a cumbersome administrative process. Handling the disability program, though it involves only 20% of Social Security recipients, takes up more than half of the agency's \$4.9 billion administrative budget.

The goal for reengineering that process calls for a disability application to be handled by one person, down from 13 currently. A four-level process will be cut to two levels. "You can always continue to throw money at something, but we really needed to fundamentally rethink the program," says Charles Jones, director of the disability process redesign.

The reengineering, which will take five years to complete, hinges on a new computer system—which in turn hinges on a \$1 billion appropriation from Congress. But the biggest obstacle is "people's natural resistance to major change. It is scary to a lot of people," Jones says.

Reengineering scared Martin, the Queens telephone representative, mostly because it sounded like "more work to do." But the customer service program, which gives phone representatives more information so they can answer questions quickly, "makes the job creative and interesting," she says. Even courtesy training is welcome. Social Security phone reps get their share of angry, even suicidal callers. "It's stressful," Reyes says. And because of the range of information they provide, "we're like the doctor, lawyer, social worker, accountant," says Martin.

"Psychiatrist," Reyes adds.

In fact, as much as Social Security has modeled itself on the corporate world, it remains different.

"We should look for new ideas" from private industry, says Richard Heyniger, of the Jamaica center. But he recalls his first job with Social Security, 21 years ago, visiting shelters in Manhattan. "Guys would sneeze on me and drool on me," as he tracked down homeless men to give them their benefits, he says. "I don't think there are a lot of private sector organizations that do that. They're concerned with customers—but they're also concerned with profits."

"WHAT AMERICA MEANS TO ME"

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention a meaningful message, "What America Means to Me," written by Julio Martinez who is a member of VFW Post 2545 in Redlands, CA. As a nation of immigrants, we must continue to recognize that the strength of our country lies largely in its diversity. I commend this passage to my colleagues in the House:

WHAT AMERICA MEANS TO ME

America means to me, the place of my birth. Born to a family who taught me, early in life,

No matter the hardships,
To love this land of my birth.

America offered schools for you and me,
To become whatever we wished to become.
Through life adjustment and preparation.
So we could build a stronger nation.

America means to me, freedom of speech,
As long as I do not infringe on the rights, of
any of our citizens.

America is the only place on this earth,
Where people of all nationalities live, and co-
exist as fellow citizens.

America means to me, freedom of religion,
To worship any religion I choose.
And the freedom not to worship if I so
choose.

America means to me, the freedom,
Of working where I choose to work.
And wherever I choose to work.
And am guaranteed fair wages for my work.

America means to me, freedom,
To move from one job to another, without
reprisal.

From one state to another, without fear
upon my arrival.

America means to me, the freedom, to
choose where,
I wish to live and am guaranteed, by our,
Constitution, the freedom.

To pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of
happiness.

With total freedom.

America means to me, freedom to elect,
Public officials to govern us,
With our consent.

and to remove them if not content.

America means to me, the freedom,
On the Fourth of July, her birthday, to cele-
brate.

She gained her independence for you and for
me.

So let us all celebrate.

America means to me, freedom to fly,
Our beautiful flag, atop our flagpoles,
Fluttering majestically, throughout our na-
tion,

Reminding us all that we live in a free na-
tion.

America may not be perfect, but,
It is still the best nation in the world.

So we had best take care of her, by living
harmoniously together.

If we look out for each other,
She will continue to be the best nation in
the world.

We know we are still learning to live to-
gether, as American citizens.

But let an outsider threaten America, and
she,

Will send out a call to her sons, daughters
and citizens.

We will respond to her call, no matter what
we contend.

We will defend her to the very end.

Our nation is free.

We have demonstrated to the world,

We will fight to keep her free.

And yes this is what America, means to me.
That I wish the world to see.

TRIBUTE TO ELEANOR KAHLE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of an extraordinary woman, Mrs. Eleanor Kahle of Toledo, who died at the age of 78 years young on August 13, 1995. Councilwoman and vice mayor emeritus, Eleanor Kahle, was a citizen-stateswoman, a mentor, a team player, and a friend to thousands. Her passing leaves a void in our community no one can adequately fill.

Eleanor (Konieczka) Kahle, Polish-American by heritage, began her life on September 10, 1916, in what was then the small community of Sylvania outside of the city of Toledo. At the time of her death, she had become a citizen of the world. In fact, though over her lifetime she received recognitions too numerous to mention, the one she cherished most was her last, that of being named National Volunteer of the Year of Sister Cities International.

It has been said that Eleanor Kahle had four careers in her life: that of wife and mother of six children, pastoral associate in the Catholic Church, executive director of the West Toledo Senior Center, and elected official in the city of Toledo. In all of these careers, Eleanor Kahle forged new ground. She took no responsibility more seriously than raising her six sons as a young widow, and delighted in their achievements as adults and in their children's.

She was also a devoted woman of the church. There did not exist such a position as pastoral associate in the diocesan Catholic Church until Eleanor Kahle pursued its creation. In the 1970's as a pastoral associate, she was essentially the highest ranking woman in the Catholic Church, performing nearly all of the duties of the priesthood with the exception of the celebration of the Mass and the Sacraments.

Doggedly pursuing the creation of a senior citizens center for several years in spite of tremendous opposition, she oversaw the birth of the thriving West Toledo Senior Center in 1979, directing its growth until her retirement in 1993. Today that center stands, 5,000 seniors strong, housed in a large, pleasant, refurbished building, as a true legacy to her.

In 1983, I was honored by her service on my congressional staff in Washington as a special assistant on senior citizen issues, guiding and advising me as Congress debated changes in the Social Security system to assure its future solvency. She approached that opportunity with the zest, intelligence, and dedication that characterized her entire life.

In 1987, at the age of 70, when most people would not dream of making such a major

change in their life, Eleanor began her stellar political career as an elected official winning a seat on Toledo's city council. Four years later, in 1991, she finished first in the city council races among a field of eight, and was elected the city's vice mayor, one of only two women in Toledo history to rise to the post. Always planning and working toward unmet horizons she kept up the brisk pace of public life right until her unexpected illness, and never wavered from the idea that she might return to her duties. It was during her career as a councilwoman that Eleanor Kahle committed herself to the Sister Cities International ideals. She traveled abroad extensively as a goodwill ambassador for Toledo and our Nation, establishing new relationships with the cities of Szeged, Hungary, and Poznan, Poland. She hosted dozens of visitors in her home and was Toledo's most dedicated ambassador-at-large.

In every endeavor, Eleanor Kahle conducted herself with grace, dignity, and eloquence. In her own mind, she never had to be the leader, "just wanted to make sure the job got done." Yet in her persevering and joyful way, she led her community forward always, many times as a lone pioneer. Who can forget the twinkle in her eye or her cherubic grin. In the words of her children, while describing her and comparing her to the roses she so enjoyed, Eleanor Kahle was "a true American beauty."

In special memory of Eleanor's life, in honor of her gifts and talents, and in recognition of her achievements and the special roles she fulfilled so exceptionally in our community, our Nation, and our world, the Eleanor Kahle Memorial Scholarship Fund will be established at Lourdes College, to be awarded to a nontraditional student who wishes to pursue those goals which Eleanor cherished and toward which she strove. This scholarship will stand as a legacy to Eleanor, her life, and her ideals. On behalf of all the citizens of our community whose lives have been improved by her vigilant work, let us publicly thank her as well as her family for their selfless devotion to others. We shall miss her always and be inspired by her life's work. She remains our true friend.

**FELICIAN SISTERS HONORED AS
1995 "POLISH AMERICANS OF THE
YEAR"**

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Felician Order of Sisters who have been named "Polish Americans of the Year" by The Milwaukee Society, an affiliate of the Polish National Alliance.

In 1855, the Felician Order was established in Poland by Mary Angela Truszkowska. Nineteen years later, in 1874, five Felician Sisters came to the United States and opened a parochial school in Polonia, WI. As time went on and their numbers increased, they also established orphanages, homes for the elderly, hospitals, and day care centers, in addition to teaching. Today, St. Francis Hospital, Villa St. Francis, the Terrace at St. Francis, and St. Joseph Day Care Center for Children are all ex-

amples of their continued ministry on Milwaukee's South Side.

When I attended St. Helen's Grade School, the Felicians staffed the facility and I know full well of their dedication and impact on educating young minds. I warmly remember the discipline and understanding and warmth—although for some reason, I remember the discipline the most! I wonder why?

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Felician Sisters' remarkable contribution to the citizens of Milwaukee, WI, and to the United States. They are a shining example of the commitment and dedication which is representative of Polish immigrants throughout our nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, I offer best wishes and congratulations to the Felician Sisters as this year's Milwaukee Society's "Polish Americans of the Year."

TRIBUTE TO ED GANNAWAY

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, August 22, 1995, is a day etched in the minds of those who flew on board ASA Commuter Flight 529 from Atlanta, GA, Gulfport, MS. Flight 529 was forced to crash land in a small field near Carrollton, GA, resulting in the death of four passengers and its captain, Ed Gannaway of Dublin, GA. However, due to the sheer heroics of Captain Gannaway, 26 passengers survived the crash landing. Landing a plane with a blown engine took a level head and all the outstanding skills available to Captain Gannaway.

Flight attendant Robin Fech, of Warner Robins, has similarly earned our praise for her calm and efficient preparation of the passengers for the crash landing that awaited them. Fortunately, Robin Fech survived the ill-fated flight.

Today, I would like to take this time to recognize Captain Ed Gannaway for the manner in which he guided his crippled plane over houses, power lines, and trees to finally find the hayfield near Carrollton. Because of Ed Gannaway, 24 others are still alive today. Ed Gannaway was a great American, and many lives are touched by his passing. Whether it be the kids from Boy Scout Troop 66 or those that knew him from First United Methodist church in Dublin, Ed Gannaway will be missed.

Our hearts go out to his wife, Jackie, and three sons, Craig, Russell, and Rob. It will always be hard to face this loss, but I pray that it be reassuring to know that Ed Gannaway died for the sake of other lives. Without Ed Gannaway as pilot on this particular day, the news of this crash might have been far graver. The best way to sum up Ed Gannaway's feat is as Rev. Jack Key said, "Ed Gannaway truly flew on wings of eagles."

INTRODUCING THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID PAYMENT INTEGRITY ACT OF 1995

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce, with my colleague, Mr. WAXMAN, the Medicare and Medicaid Payment Integrity Act of 1995.

This legislation would improve the Government's ability to detect fraud and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. It would create a new mechanism to increase funding available for combating health care fraud and abuse without drawing down from the U.S. Treasury, or further burdening taxpayers.

The bill would establish a new health care antifraud reinvestment fund, into which certain monetary recoveries resulting from health care fraud enforcement cases would be deposited. These funds would be used to support additional enforcement activities by the Federal Government. The account would be available to fund expanded and innovative methods to investigate fraud and abuse, sanction offenders, deter misconduct, and return improperly spent money to the trust fund and the Treasury. Thus, the individuals and corporations who defraud our Nation's health care system will foot the bill for increased policing of these programs.

This legislation also provides for a stable funding source for payment integrity activities undertaken by the health care financing administration. These include:

First, medical and utilization review; second, audit of cost reports; third, Medicare secondary payer determinations and recovery of payments; and fourth, education of providers and beneficiaries regarding payment integrity. These activities would no longer be subject to the ups and downs of the appropriations process. However, spending could not exceed the amounts that were appropriated for fiscal year 1996 through 2002.

This bill is a serious attempt to expand fraud and abuse activities without increasing burdens on Federal taxpayers. In the near future, Senator BOB GRAHAM of Florida will be introducing this bill as part of a larger legislative package that includes further expansion of fraud and abuse activities. We have been talking with Senator GRAHAM and his staff and may be offering an even broader bill in the House in the near future.

In the meantime, this is a good first step and I commend it to my colleagues.

HONORING BOB SLAGLE FOR HIS SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE TEXAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit the following statement on behalf of myself and my Democratic colleagues in the Texas delegation:

Our friend Bob Slagle, who has served as Chairman of the Texas Democratic Party since September, 1980, has announced that he will not seek reelection in 1996. Party activists and party officers are often typecast and miscast as "political hacks" engaged in a cynical electoral game that emphasizes only winning and cares little about policy and its effect on people. Often the work of party leaders is taken for granted, as credit and glory is showered on consultants, candidates, and high profile political gurus.

Over the span of 15 years, Bob Slagle has sacrificed his time and energy serving his party, his state, and his nation, and we are thankful for the respect and commitment he has shown to those of us who have run for office and serve in this great body. Today we are proud to salute our Chairman, Bob Slagle, for his commitment to the people and his belief that this great system of government we call democracy must work to make sure all Americans have the opportunity to fully realize their talents and put them to work for the common good. Although he is a fierce partisan, Bob is an even fiercer patriot, a man whose politics are driven by a belief that the more people participate in politics, the better our government will serve the people.

When one stops to think about what it must be like to deal year round with all the different groups and factions within a political party, one has to appreciate the dedication Bob has shown to working to keep Democrats together as we have fought for those things we believe are important for our country. As Chairman, Bob has worked to make sure the Texas Democratic Party is truly an inclusive, democratic party, the party where all calls are taken, where everyone still counts. At the same time, the Texas Democratic Party has pioneered many modern campaign concepts during Bob's tenure, including the ticketwide coordinated campaign; the development of a statewide computerized voter file that contains voter history, targeting, and demographics data to allow campaigns to target voter contact efforts; and the implementation of a secure, on-line interactive communications network.

Thanks to Chairman Slagle's tireless efforts, Democratic officeholders have not been "defeated with a redistricting map," while at the same time the protection and creation of African American and Hispanic districts have been achieved. Perhaps most important, Bob worked to build a solid small donor base to assure the party of a stable funding source, and he and the party staff have traveled all over Texas to conduct workshops, hold rallies, and campaign for Democrats up and down the ticket. All this has helped keep the Democrats the majority party in Texas at a time when many other states with similar demographics have been flooded by a "Republican tide."

For 15 years as Chairman and long before that, Bob has worked side by side with people from all walks of life to make our state and nation stronger through their participation. His friends include the famous and the unknown; rich and poor; black, brown, and white; urban and rural; conservative and liberal; and even some Republicans—all those who believe that by bringing people together to find the common good, the great American democratic system offers "the best hope on earth."

On Saturday, September 9th, Texas Democrats and friends from around the country will join in "A Salute to Bob Slagle" in Austin. We join in saluting Bob and thanking

the Chairman for his 15-year tenure of service and lifetime of commitment to his party, state, and nation.

Respectfully submitted by:

Henry B. Gonzalez, Twentieth District; E "Kika" de la Garza, Fifteenth District; Charles Wilson, Second District; Martin Frost, Twenty-Fourth District; Charles W. Stenholm, Seventeenth District; Ralph M. Hall, Fourth District; John Bryant, Fifth District; Ronald Coleman, Sixteenth District; Solomon P. Ortiz, Twenty-Seventh District; Jim Chapman, First District; Pete Geren, Twelfth District; Chet Edwards, Eleventh District; Gene Green, Twenty-Ninth District; Eddie Bernice Johnson, Thirtieth District; Frank Tejeda, Twenty-Eighth District; Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr., Twenty-Fifth District; Lloyd Doggett, Tenth District; Shelia Jackson Lee, Eighteenth District.

THE PBS SERIES "THE AMERICAN PROMISE"

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as has been said many times before, ours is the only Nation founded on an idea—the idea of democracy. No idea is more American. Yet the idea of democracy is neither simply defined, nor easily described. American democracy expresses itself in endless variations.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the grassroots of democracy, taking place everyday in communities across the United States, which is literally vital to the life of our Nation, yet too often ignored in the chambers of this Capitol. With this in mind, I recommend to you the American Promise, an important new PBS television series celebrating community-based democracy. The American Promise makes its national broadcast premier on October 1, 2, and 3.

Here, in Washington, we conduct democracy's most visible work. It is the democracy studied in civics and political science classrooms and reported by our newspapers, magazines, and television programs.

We arrive here after elections, propose and study legislation, debate, and then vote on competing bills and amendments. It is a fact that each stage of the process has winners and losers. By necessity we live and work in a world of partisanship and competition. Before any bill becomes the law of the land, it must be debated, tested, and its consequence thoroughly understood by the people and by us, the peoples representatives.

Not surprisingly, this world in which we are immersed leaves many citizens frustrated and cynical. Too often, this version of democracy seems to be nothing but a political contest. Who is up? Who is down? How do yesterday's events affect the power to get things done tomorrow? Our standing is gauged by an extraordinary sensitive barometer, instantaneously reflecting each small political success and failure.

Yet this work—our work here in Washington—is but one form of American democracy. It is a serious mistake to think otherwise. In

community after community throughout America, in large ways and small, citizens decide every day to become part of the democratic process. They do this by joining an organization; bringing other together to improve or expand existing services; inventing a better mousetrap; asking why a flawed practice can't be changed; engaging in a civil and respectful debate; considering another viewpoint; or shouldering the responsibility to make hard decisions.

When this happens, there are no losers. Everybody in the community wins. When a community development bank is opened when none existed before, or when individuals cooperate so that dry lands may be irrigated, no one need ask who is up, or who is down. Score keeping quickly becomes irrelevant. Through action and energy, participation and deliberation, taking responsibility and seeking common ground, American democracy comes to life and everybody in the community wins.

Mr. Speaker, in my view there is no better antidote to doubts about our Nation's future. We need only shift our gaze away from the latest reiteration of partisan one-upmanship, to the grassroots democracy taking place in our communities.

The American Promise, the new PBS series, does exactly that: it reminds us all of the community-based democracy that is found beyond this Capitol, and in so doing, it helps restore our faith in the idea of democracy, the idea of America, and the limitless possibilities for our Nation's future.

The American Promise is a 3-hour television program on civic participation and grassroots democracy. In some 50 different story segments taken from every region of the United States, lessons are offered on the skills and values needed to bring our democracy to life. These vignettes are collected around distinct themes to illustrate core American values such as freedom, responsibility, opportunity, participation, and deliberation.

One of the story segments features an outstanding example of community-based democracy in Chicago in the Seventh Congressional District which I represent. The Full Circle Fund, designed and funded by the Chicago Women's Self-Employment Project, provides vital capital along with business advice to micro-enterprises. In the last 3 years, the Women's Self-Employment Project has lent \$60,000 to 60 low-income women without a single default and a late payment rate of only three percent.

The Full Circle Fund lends to circles, of teams, all women in the circle are responsible for the loan. The circle qualifies for the loan, one or two women in the circle get the money first, then when they have begun paying it back, other circle members are eligible for funds. Circle members meet to collect loan payments, discuss their businesses, and provide each other with support and advice. Together, these women work together to create opportunity, social capital and the backbone of community democracy.

One of the lending circle meetings at BJ's Professional Beauty Supply will be a part of the American Promise's first hour and it offers all of us much to consider and remember about our communities.

After the October PBS broadcast premier The American Promise will then be put to use

in high school and junior high school classrooms throughout the United States, as an instructional tool on civics and community-based democracy.

The National Council for the Social Studies has endorsed the program. And Farmers Insurance Group, the program's corporate sponsor, has pledged to make the video, teaching guides, and classroom materials available to all interested schools and teachers at no cost.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and viewers across the Nation to tune-in to this important program. And I would like to thank the Farmers Insurance Group, and its chairman, Leo E. Denlea, Jr., for bringing The American Promise to us. The program reminds us all of what right about America, and what we have to do to make good on America's bright future.

IN HONOR OF MAJ. GEN. JOHN F. PHILLIPS

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. John F. Phillips, the Commander of the Sacramento Air Logistics Center [ALC] at McClellan Air Force Base. Major General Phillips will be retiring from the Air Force later this month after an exceptional career characterized by many significant and demanding assignments. Because of his outstanding record of leadership and accomplishments, the Secretary of Defense has asked Major Phillips to continue his service to the Nation by selecting him as Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Logistics. In this critical position, he will oversee the work done by maintenance depots for all branches of the military.

As commander of the Sacramento ALC, Major General Phillips oversees a center that employs approximately 13,500 civilian and military personnel and manages \$3.2 billion annually, including a \$548 million payroll and \$820 million in contract awards. This center provides worldwide logistics support to a number of aircraft that include the F-117 Stealth fighter, F-22, F-111 series, A-10, F-15 and KC-135; manages more than 200 communication systems and eight space systems; and repairs, overhauls and modifies entire categories of complex avionics components, hydraulic and pneumatic systems, and flight control systems.

Major General Phillips' Air Force career began when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant after receiving his bachelor of science degree with honors in biology and chemistry from Jarvis Christian College, TX. Later, he would earn his master of science degree in logistics management from the Air Force Institute of Technology. In addition, Major General Phillips has also studied and completed academic programs at several other educational institutions including the Air Command and Staff College, the Institute of Aerospace Safety Engineering at the University of Southern California, the Defense Systems Management College, and Harvard University.

After completing his navigator training, Major General Phillips attended KC-135 combat crew training and subsequently served as an instructor navigator. He flew regular combat missions over Vietnam as a KC-135 navigator. Subsequently, Major General Phillips graduated from pilot training with top honors and worked as a T-37 instructor pilot. His responsibilities continued to become more complex and challenging as his Air Force career progressed. Major General Phillips has held many assignments in the logistics management field, including positions at the Pentagon and several Air Force bases. Perhaps one of his most fascinating assignment was as a logistics systems analyst at the Doshan Tappeh Air Base in Iran during 1978 to 1979. Major General Phillips had the misfortune of being held hostage for 3 weeks when the Ayatollah Khomeini overthrew the Shah of Iran. He was only released after the United States recognized the Khomeini regime.

Major General Phillips is an experienced pilot, navigator and instructor pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, including 300-plus combat flying hours over Vietnam. He has received several major military awards and decorations; some of these include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. Despite the tremendous duties of overseeing the Sacramento ALC, Major General Phillips participates in a number of community activities. He serves on the board of directors of the Sacramento Urban League Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Ballet, and is the chairman of the local Combined Federal Campaign charity drive. Major General Phillips and his wife Blanche are the parents of three children and grandparents of two.

Major General Phillips is keenly aware of the struggle that African American military officers and pilots before him have faced. In recognition of this, he helps maintain their spirit and the important history of their efforts through his service as the vice president of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

I join my colleagues today in honoring Maj. Gen. John F. Phillips for his more than 30 years of distinguished and dedicated service to the Air Force and our Nation. I also congratulate him on his Department of Defense appointment and wish him continued success as he embarks on a new career.

NEWBERRY WOMEN'S CLUB
CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is, indeed, an honor for me to bring to the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives and its membership an event that occurred just last week in my congressional district, the First District of Michigan. On Thursday, August 31, 1995, the Newberry Women's Club, of Newberry, MI, celebrated its 100th anniversary. I congratulate all members of this outstanding organization, both past and present, on reaching this milestone.

First organized in 1895 as the Bay View Reading Circle, the small group of 13 women and men met to discuss issues of the day as well as matters relating to history and literature.

The organization continued to grow and in 1914 joined the State Federation and drafted its first constitution and by-laws. With more members came more involved discussions of various topics of interest to the group including art, music, education, period furniture. Individual members also composed music, wrote poetry and even wrote and produced plays that received recognition through the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Over the years, the club changed its name to the Newberry Women's Club and involved itself in many social, civic and charitable projects including the organization of a club for girls, assistance in health clinics, contributions to the Bay Cliff Health Camp, filling Christmas and Easter baskets for the needy and even providing an arts and nursing scholarship that is awarded annually to a Newberry High School graduating senior.

As the club's second century begins, their primary focus centers on education, the arts, public affairs, home life, conservation and international affairs. While their interests have certainly broadened, they have not forgotten their origins and the primary purpose of the original club.

Mr. Speaker, it is through organizations like the Newberry Women's Club that our heritage is maintained while at the same time allowing us to look forward to meet the needs of people. I congratulate the Newberry Women's Club and wish them well in their next 100 years.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
MATUSALA TEWOLDE-KUFLOM

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, with the crush of business leading up to the August district work period, I was remiss in not bringing to the attention of the House a very joyous bit of news that I know we all can appreciate and celebrate. Belatedly, I want to take a moment today to congratulate two fine individuals in Fairfax, VA on the birth of their son in May.

On May 19, Tewolde T. "Ted" Kufom and his wife, Tsehainesh Ugbazghi-Adkeme became the proud parents of their first child, Matusala Tewolde-Kufom.

"Ted" and his wife immigrated to the United States from Eritrea in September 1988 and have worked hard since then to become successful small business owners. For the last 5 years, they have operated the D-11 Market, a corner grocery store located in northeast Washington, DC.

Their hard work and determination to build a better life for themselves, and their deep love for their son, ensure that Matusala will have what we want for all children: a loving and secure home life and a chance to fully partake in the American dream.

I salute "Ted" and wife, and I know you join with me, Mr. Speaker, in congratulating them

on the healthy arrival of their son, Matusala Tewolde-Kulom.

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY MAY REDUCE RISK OF BIRTH DEFECTS

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, we have all been aware of the problems associated with birth—the possibility that an infant is born with certain defects—but up to now, we have not had a full understanding of why a child dies prematurely or fails to develop to its full human potential. Recently, at the 39th briefing before the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus, Dr. James L. Mills, chief of the pediatric epidemiology section at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, described incredible advances in identifying causes of birth defects and their possible prevention.

I believe that his remarks will indicate the remarkable advances made in molecular biology at the National Institutes of Health.

BIRTH DEFECTS

(James L. Mills, M.D.)

It is a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to come and share my enthusiasm for birth defects research with you today. Had I been asked to give this talk in 1980, when I first started doing birth defects research, I would have done so with considerable trepidation. The fact is, most birth defects research in those days was rather pedestrian. It was good work but not exciting. It consisted of classifying and describing various birth defects. We might have been fighting a war on cancer then, but we were hardly fighting a skirmish on birth defects.

Today, the situation has changed dramatically. Dr. Holmes has already pointed out that we have expanded our understanding of how birth defects occur tremendously. We have better strategies for identifying new causes of birth defects, and we are able to identify families at risk more accurately than we ever could before.

I will discuss several areas of research that have blossomed over the last decade. First, how biochemical abnormalities cause birth defects; next, how factors in the embryo's environment interact with intrinsic (genetic) factors within us to produce birth defects; and finally, how our understanding of these biochemical, environmental and genetic factors can lead to preventing birth defects.

First, I would like to speak about how biochemical abnormalities in mothers cause birth defects in their offspring. I have chosen as an example work done by us at NIH with collaborators at five major universities in the Diabetes in Early Pregnancy Study. Women who have diabetes at the time that they become pregnant have a greatly increased risk of having a child with a birth defect. Heart, brain and spinal cord defects are just a few of the many birth defects that infants of diabetic mothers are at increased risk of experiencing. We have learned that this increased risk is related to how well the mother is controlling her diabetes early in pregnancy. The better her control, the lower the risk. We also made a little bonus discovery. Diabetic women are also at increased

risk for miscarriage. We were pleased to discover that a diabetic woman can also reduce her risk for having a miscarriage by improving her control. In fact, a diabetic mother in excellent control has no greater risk for having a miscarriage than a woman with no medical problems.

More work remains to be done on diabetes. Although we know that some aspect of maternal diabetic control causes malformations, diabetes is not just high blood glucose. It is more complicated than that. In addition to raising blood glucose, diabetes can cause numerous other metabolic changes. Scientists are now trying to determine which of the many biochemical abnormalities caused by diabetes is responsible for birth defects—as a way of identifying more precisely those at highest risk, and to improve our understanding of the mechanisms by which these defects occur.

Diabetes illustrates another fascinating riddle about birth defects. We know that those diabetic women in very poor control are at highest risk for having a malformed infant, 20 percent or more of their offspring will have major birth defects (that's about ten times the rate in the general population). Why is it that the other 80 percent are not affected? We know that women who take medications that are known to cause birth defects during the critical period when the embryo's organs are developing still do not have a 100 percent chance of having affected offspring. What we do not know is why some embryos escape unscathed.

We do have some ideas, however. One of the reasons we think not every exposed embryo gets malformations brings me to the next topic; that is, how factors from outside the developing embryo—in the embryo's environment—and genetic factors interact to cause birth defects. Now let me explain just what I mean by factors outside the developing embryo. The embryo's environment means whatever is in the mother's blood—drugs she takes for acne, high blood glucose, or low vitamin levels. By genetic factors, I mean anything hereditary that make the embryo directly susceptible to birth defects.

In order to illustrate how the embryo's environment and genetic factors together produce birth defects, I want to tell you a story about neural tube defects and folic acid. Neural tube defects are a malformation of the nervous system. They are among the most devastating defects. Anencephaly is a uniformly fatal defect in which most of the brain is missing. Spina bifida is a disruption of the spinal cord that is often fatal. In survivors, it causes paralysis, bladder and bowel problems and severe disability.

Many years ago scientists observed that neural tube defects were much more common in poor families. Some suspected that dietary deficiency was an important factor. When women who had delivered an affected child were tested, they were found to have significantly lower levels of several vitamins—notably folate—in their blood. This prompted scientists to give women vitamins before they became pregnant to try to prevent neural tube defects. When investigators gave women vitamin tablets containing folic acid before they became pregnant, they were able to decrease the risk for neural tube defects, thus proving that folic acid was an important factor in the causation of NTDs. In fact, the United States Public Health Service now recommends that all women who could possibly get pregnant take folic acid to prevent these defects. So, investigators had found the environmental piece of the puzzle—folate. But remember, I said this was a

story about an environmental-genetic interaction. What about the genetic piece that completed the puzzle?

We know something else about the causes of neural tube defects; certain ethnic groups are known to be at high risk. In the Celtic population, in particular in Scotland and Ireland, the risk is up to five times higher than the risk in the U.S. They call neural tube defects the curse of the Celts. So there is clearly a high risk genetic group.

We saw this as a golden opportunity to look for an environmental, that is vitamin-related, genetic, that is Celtic, interaction. We at NIH and our collaborators at the Health Research Board of Ireland and Trinity College, Dublin explored what it was about these high risk Irish mothers that put them at risk for having a child with a neural tube defect.

We had several clues. First, we knew that folate was important. This made it very likely that these women or their embryos had a problem absorbing folate from their diet, or using folate normally in their metabolic reactions. Unfortunately, humans use folate in over a dozen different reactions, making it very difficult to determine where the problem was. But we were lucky.

We had a second clue—low vitamin B12 levels also seemed to increase the risk for neural tube defects, and of all the dozen plus reactions that involved folate, only one involved B12 as well. In this reaction, B12 and folate are used to eliminate a chemical known as homocysteine. Homocysteine is converted into methionine, an essential ingredient in the production of proteins, DNA and other critical items for the embryo.

We hypothesized that women whose fetuses had neural tube defects could not convert homocysteine to methionine normally. We were able to measure homocysteine levels in the blood of women who were pregnant, carrying fetuses with neural tube defects. The homocysteine levels were higher than normal, indicating that these women were not able to convert homocysteine normally.

We believe that this inability to convert homocysteine is the reason that these women have babies with neural tube defects—either because homocysteine is toxic to the embryo, or because the embryo does not receive a sufficient amount of the products of the reaction. Genetically, these women seem to have an abnormal enzyme (a chemical that moves the reaction forward). Adding more of the vitamin, folic acid, in essence pushes this chemical reaction forward and converts the homocysteine normally.

Here then was the missing piece of the puzzle. A combination of an environmental factor—insufficient folate—and a genetic factor—impaired ability to clear homocysteine—causes neural tube defects.

This leads me to the last major topic—how our understanding of these biochemical and genetic factors can lead to the prevention of birth defects. After all, it may be very satisfying to know how birth defects occur, but we are really in this business to save children from death and disability. In order to do this, we are constantly on the lookout for markers to identify women at risk, and for interventions to prevent birth defects.

We now know of several biochemical risk factors. The diabetes specialist can use clinical markers like blood glucose to identify women in poor metabolic control, women who should avoid getting pregnant until their medical problems can be corrected. We hope that we will soon have a practical test to identify women who do not convert homocysteine well and, thus, are at increased risk

for having children with neural tube defects. These women could then be targeted to receive extra folic acid to prevent neural tube defects. In the meantime, we can still prevent many neural tube defects by ensuring that all women who might become pregnant take folic acid supplements.

What will the future bring? To use the illustration of neural tube defects again, we expect to find the specific biochemical reaction that is working too slowly in converting homocysteine. Once this is done, we will look at the enzyme that is supposed to move that reaction ahead. Because each enzyme is manufactured by a specific gene, it will be possible to see if the women with the homocysteine abnormality have a defective gene for that enzyme. This is as simple as finding out whether the genetic code contains an error for that gene. When that is accomplished, women can be screened by gene testing as another method of identifying women at higher risk for having babies with neural tube defects—those who especially need additional folate before they become pregnant.

Looking even farther into the future, we may be preventing birth defects by gene therapy. When a couple has a gene abnormality that prevents them from having normal children, it may be possible to perform in vitro fertilization and insert the proper gene into the fertilized egg to correct the defect—and to do it even before the fertilized egg is put into the mother's uterus.

Of course, we face new challenges with these new scientific advances. Moral issues, such as when to perform genetic testing and gene therapy, will require very careful consideration. Fortunately, when the goal is to save the life of the child by preventing birth

defects, the moral questions often have clear answers.

In conclusion, Mark Twain once said that everybody always talks about the weather but nobody ever does anything about it. Until recently it could have been said that we scientists always talked about birth defects but never did anything about them. Now we are in an exciting new era where we are not just talking about birth defects; now we are doing something about them. We are preventing them.

EUNA M. THOMPSON, EXCELLENT TEACHER

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Euna M. Thompson, a teacher in my district, who embodies excellence in the field of education. Ms. Thompson is an outstanding example of the vital and significant impact that a teacher can make on students' lives.

Ms. Thompson is a recipient of the 1995 Excellence in Teaching Award of the National Council of Negro Women. The Excellence in Teaching Award honors teachers who uphold the legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune, eminent educator and founder of the National Council of Negro Women, by making significant contributions to the education of African American students.

Ms. Thompson strives to effect change in her students by strengthening their self-esteem, self-discipline, creativity, and critical thinking skills. She creates opportunities for her students to explore, create, perform and develop positive attitudes about themselves.

Ms. Thompson uses her considerable musical talents to enhance her teaching methods. She views art and music as a means to enrich oneself culturally and academically. By leading her students to a second place victory in a New York singing competition and spearheading a \$40,000 fund-raising campaign, Ms. Thompson created a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for her students to sing for Pope John Paul II in Rome.

Ms. Thompson has worked in the public school system for more than 30 years and now serves the Dayton community as director of Choral Music and Humanities at the Patterson Career Center. She has received many awards and accolades including the Impact II Grant for two consecutive years, the Dayton-Montgomery County Public Education Fund's Excellence in Teaching Award and the Martin Luther King Award for promoting human rights through the arts.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ms. Thompson for her devotion to children. By making a real and positive difference in her students' lives, Ms. Thompson makes a real and positive difference in our future.